



**Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
Government Center
500 S. Grand Central Parkway (Pueblo Room)
Las Vegas, NV 89155
October 29, 2024 (5:30 PM)
Meeting Minutes**

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NOTE:

- Items on the agenda may be taken out of order.
- The CCABMW members may combine two (2) or more agenda items for its consideration.
- The CCABMW may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.
- No action may be taken on any matter not listed on the posted agenda.
- Please turn off or mute all cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Please take all private conversations outside the room.
- With a forty-eight (48) hour advance request, a sign language interpreter, or other reasonable efforts to assist and accommodate persons with physical disabilities, may be made available by calling (702) 455-3530, TDD at (702) 385-7486, or Relay Nevada toll-free at (800) 326-6868, TD/TDD
- Supporting material provided to CCABMW members for this meeting may be requested from Secretary Darlene Kretunski at (702) 455-1402 and is/will be available on the County’s website at www.clarkcountynv.gov.
- If you do not wish to attend the meeting in person but desire to provide written general public comment or public comment on an individual agenda item, please submit your comments prior to 2:30 p.m. October 29, 2024, to Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov. Please make sure to include your name, address, the agenda item number on which you are providing comment, and your comment. All comments will be compiled into a document and shared with members of the public body, meeting attendees and on the public body’s website.

CCABMW Members: Paul Dixon, Chairman
Dan Gilbert, Vice-Chairman
John Hiatt
Jacob Thompson
Dave Talaga
Brian Patterson
Alexander Harper

SECRETARY: Darlene Kretunski (702) 455-1402
EMAIL: Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Department of Environment and Sustainability
4701 W. Russell Road, Suite 200 2nd Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89118

COUNTY LIAISON: Marci Henson (702) 455-1608
EMAIL: Mhenson@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Department of Environment and Sustainability
4701 W. Russell Road, Suite 200 2nd Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89118

I. Call to Order-Roll call of Board Members determination of a quorum:

If no quorum is present, meeting cannot begin and will be canceled.

- Present: Chair Paul Dixon, Board members: Brian Patterson, Alexander Harper, Dave Talaga, Jacob Thompson, John Hiatt. Absent: Vice Chair Dan Gilbert.
- **A quorum was established.**

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- **Chair Paul Dixon asked member of the public Mark Transue to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

III. Public Comment- This is a period devoted to comments by the public about items on this agenda. No discussion, action, or vote may be taken on this agenda item. You will be afforded the opportunity to speak on individual Public Hearing Items at the time they are presented. If you wish to speak to the CCABMW about items within its jurisdiction but not appearing on this agenda, you must wait until the “Comments by the General Public” period listed at the end of this agenda. Comments will

be limited to three (3) minutes. Please clearly state your name, address, and please spell your first and last name for the record. If any member of the CCABMW wishes to extend the length of the presentation, this will be done by the Chair or the CCABMW by majority vote.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Public Comments: (None)
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that this item is hereby closed.**

IV. **Approval of the Minutes for September 24, 2024, CCABMW Meeting. (*For possible action*).**

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Board member John Hiatt advised a motion to approve meeting minutes for September 24, 2024, as presented.
- Board member Brian Patterson seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0**
- **Board member Alexander Harper can not vote on this action item because he did not review the meeting minutes.**

V. **Approval of the Agenda for October 29, 2024. Agenda items may be Held, Combined, or Deleted (*For possible action*).**

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Board member John Hiatt had concerns that no supporting material was provided on Action Item (c.) Commission Policy 67- Wild Horse and Burro.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member John Hiatt that there was no supporting material provided and that the CAB will be discussing this in tonight's meeting still even though there was no support material provided.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised a motion to approve the Agenda for October 29, 2024, as presented.
- Brian Patterson seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

VI. **CCABMW Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence:**

(Informational) CCABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the CCABMW. Any item requiring CCABMW action will be scheduled on a future

CCABMW agenda. CCABMW board members may discuss any correspondence sent or received. (CCABMW board members must provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record).

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked each board member if they had any correspondence that was sent to them or they have received from member of the public, agencies, organizations or any topics they would like to discuss.
- Brian Patterson: **(Yes)**: He advised that this is his last meeting and that his term will expire in November 2024, therefore he will not seek to be reappointed. He advised that he plans on attending future meetings as a member of the public only. He stated he had also retired from his current position as well. He stated he feels that now with members of the public, CAB, organizations etc., the meetings, have had better communication between all parties being able to talk to each other and hear everyone's point of view. He stated going back to twelve years ago there was animosity in the room during the meetings and he gave praise to Chair Paul Dixon for helping calm the discussion down to be able to communicate successfully. He stated it is obvious that everyone in this room cares tremendously about the wildlife in this state therefore we now could have civilized discussions and that should be commended. He reiterated that he would attend the meeting as a member of the public just like past board member Therese Campbell and explained that he has seen throughout the years board members go from CAB side of the table to the side of member of the public, and he vowed to show up for the meeting on a consistent basis, just as past board member Therese Campbell is doing.
- Chair Paul Dixon joked to board member Brian Patterson by stating, this is your way of advising to us that you will still be around.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to Chair Paul Dixon, that he was correct. He advised that he went out a week ago to do some quail hunting near

Searchlight and this is an issue that is dear to my heart, he advised that he picked up non-commercial amphibians in his 40 mile radius going into a loop, and his reason for pickup up these items is that it was the only things he could grab quick and easy by the roadside as opposed to picking up these same items 40 miles up the roadway. He stated that this issue is often discussed amongst the CAB and this issue is dear to his heart. He continued to discuss that he went deer hunting in the North Shell Creek Range this past week, and he will be heading back again this week and advised that the conditions are very dry in this area. He described seeing more horses than any other species on the landscape bar none, making it clear that there were not even close censuses in the quality and numbers of horses to the landscape. He stated there were many pockets of water and reiterated that there were many sources of water unfortunately the habitat looks terrible, with not many game animals. He advised he did see a bobcat which is a species you do not view often in this area. He stated these are things that he observed, and he is giving a report of his findings while he was out in the field. He stated since retiring from his day job, he has more time to play around in the field. He advised this is how he has been able to be in the field more in the past three weeks.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised that board member Brian Patterson is doing the John Sullivan thing, in which he retired and did a vast amount of hunting and fishing with his time. He joked the only difference between Mr. Patterson and John Sullivan is, Mr. Patterson did not sell his business for 14 million dollars.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he is fishing and hunting daily but unfortunately, he did not get the opportunity as John Sullivan to have a golden nest of that amount of money.
- Board member Brian Patterson laughed and advised to Chair Paul Dixon that he did not get that memo.

- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*): He asked board member Brian Patterson if he would ever come back to the CAB.
- Board member Brian Patterson responded to (*Mark Transue, member of the public*) that he would only come back as a member of the public to attend future meetings.
- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*) stated ok to board member Brian Patterson.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski, stated to Chair Paul Dixon that the gentlemen doing the presentation has signed in online for tonight's meeting (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*).
- Board member Brian Patterson stated great.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised everyone in the meeting that the Herpetologist has joined our meeting. He stated to the Herpetologists welcome and thanked him for attending tonight's meeting.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski attempted to fix the audio for (*Steven Stocking, Herpetologist*) because he did not answer after Chair Dixon welcomed him.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised Secretary Darlene Kretunski that (*Steven Stocking, Herpetologist*) is online, but he did not respond and was not unmuting himself. He continued with the meeting.
- Jacob Thompson: **(No)**
- Dave Talaga: **(No)**
- Alexander Harper: **(No)**
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he has received email correspondence from (*Steven Stocking, Herpetologist*) on reptiles for tonight's meeting as well as correspondence from both (*Annoula Wylderich, member of the public*). He stated he also received from (*Fauna Thompson, member of the public*) both, pertaining to reptiles, and that he shared this correspondence with the CAB already. He stated all this correspondence ties back with the report of the (*Herpetologist, Steven Stocking*) in tonight's meeting.
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that this matter is hereby closed.**

VII. **Recap of the September 27, 2024 & September 28, 2024, Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting by Chair Paul Dixon (*Informational*)**

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised **Commission General Regulation 522 Electronic Tags (E-Tags)**: He advised it is a final reading, and the CCABMW will again discuss this topic tonight. He stated that everything that the CAB discussed or had concerns about in previous meetings on this issue was discussed by the Commission regarding how the CAB with recommendations on this sort of issues. He advised he felt that the recommendations would be put into use and make changes similar to what was done, such as (*First Come, First Serve*) with the recommendations based on the misuse of how the public was doing that caused that issue to be a action item and in need of recommendation. He advised that the Commission was attempting to take experiences on E-tags thus incorporating it into everything that can be done on this regulation. He stated therefore going forward on this action item, there should be minimal changes implemented. He advised that law enforcement seemed to be pleased with these changes.
- **FYI-** The CAB felt that everyone has electronic devices therefore there these customers will say no to more hard copies giving example that for four years the amount of paper tags remained at 500 but every year this number decreased to down to 20 individuals requesting paper tags as opposed to E-tags. He advised that the goal is to phase out within the next couple of years, hard copies and simply use E-tags which can be easily accessible from your cell phone device. The CABs concerns were pertaining to a signature and advised that the E-tags do not offer a signature line like the hard tag does. The CAB in their April 30, 2024, meeting advised a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 522 E-tag Regulation as presented, the motion passed 7-0.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised **Commission Regulation 23-15 Amendment #1 Fishing Seasons and Regulation for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025**: He advised that the Wildlife Commission has approved this action item as

presented. He advised that the possession limit is now twice the daily limit, therefore curing many issues in past. He advised that everyone seemed to be pleased with this.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised **Discussion and recommendation of Churchill County Proposal on a new “Wildlife Salvage Regulation”** He stated, unfortunately there was no discussion on this action item. He advised instead he sent the CAB’s previous recommendations to the Churchill Chair for the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife as well as the County Commissioners of Churchill and advised that they will probably put together petition and submit to the NDOW and Commission who will be handling “Wildlife Salvage Regulations” hence, he stated we will wait to see where that effort goes. He advised there was a healthy discussion involving the Coyote Calling Contests or Coyote Killing Contests involving wildlife and stated there is the Coalition for Wildlife Letter but the first meeting that the CAB had on the Wildlife Calling Contests for Clark County, Chair Paul Dixon advised that there was the first meeting for this matter and he attended this meeting with Commissioner Mike Reese, and two other individuals giving a perspective that he felt was not negative completely but at the same time attempting to search for common ground between all parties. He stated he presented the previous recommendation from the CAB in giving the counties the responsibility in making their own decisions on this matter. He stated two counties who passed the resolution to not have Coyote Calling Contests are: Washoe and Clark. He stated the remaining fifteen counties, nine of these counties passed a resolution in support of having Calling Contests. He stated that his position was to have each county decide for their own county, like what was done with the decision of trapping, which are different in counties, such as Washoe and Clark due to urban populations with different morale ethics than those who have more rural ethics. He advised he is not stating that one set of ethics is right or wrong. He is only advising that there are different ethics in general. He advised the state of Nevada has large, urbanized environment in Washoe and Clark than the rest of Nevada being extremely rural and how they handle and think differently when it comes to the handling of wildlife. He gave example of Lincoln County with a smaller population of 4,000

people who live in this area for this reason of hunting, not for amenities. He advised that Commissioner David McNich did bring this concept of this thought process to the other Commissioners about different counties making their own decisions and advised he felt it was one of the better options going forward and a compromise to each side. He stated he will continue to have these meetings to receive the input needed to find a solution. Chair Paul Dixon advised that he did present all recommendations from the CAB of approval and dissenting views and reasoning of the dissenting views as well as the opinion from members of the public. He advised that most people who commented on this item at the CAB meeting also made their comments at the Commissioner Meeting as well.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised **Seasons and Quotas App Update**: He advised it was received by all counties extremely well and the Wildlife Commission felt it was a good idea and had an overall goal to have this action to occur next application hunt period which will take place next spring 2025 is the goal.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that the **Petition for Mr. Michael Scow**: He advised that this petition was denied and both the Commission and the CAB did not support this as well and explained that that members of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (TAAHC) Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee which includes: (*Chairman Tommy Caviglia and Commissioner Eddie Booth, Commissioner Shane Rogers, Commissioner Paul Young, CCABMW Rep. Ryan Brown, CCABMW Joe Crim, Public Rep, Meghan Brown*) addressed this action item twice. He advised that there were two many loopholes on this which is in place to attempt to make everyone happy, he advised by doing so it will spiral out of control thus from legal perspective it was advised that this could not fly unless it was open to everyone. He stated this would have had negative consequences to individuals who are applying for tags. He stated that he did not attend the field trip portion of the meeting instead he went home to attend to somethings that needed to be done. He advised the filed trip was with the Commissioners and at the Shooting Park. He advised he was part of the group that helped design the Shooting Park. He asked board member Brian Patterson if he was in the group that helped design the Shooting Park.

- Board member Brian Patterson stated he was not part of the board that helped design the Shooting park.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated no he was not part of the board for the design of the Shooting Park.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he was part of the beginning when it was just a concept for the Shooting Park all the way until it was built, he advised that he wishes that they would stop shooting near Jean, Nevada and by Apex.
- Board member John Hiatt stated there are a lot of other places too.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised there was in past a lot of shooting by Borrow Pit by Lone Mountain. He continued his topic and advised that outside of the field trip to Shooting Park, the Commission Meeting was short.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that felt that the CABs recommendations and requests, concerns on the action item discussed were echoed by the Commission as well as the Department of Wildlife.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised there are two more additional meetings from the Wildlife Calling Contests Committee in Washoe and Elko. He stated afterwards, there will be decisions that will be made from those meetings.
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that this item is hereby closed.**

VIII. General Business/Action Items:

Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners November 15, 2024 & November 16, 2024, meeting agenda, as well as additional items brought forth to the CCABMW from the public for discussion. CCABMW agenda & support materials are available upon request to Darlene Kretunski at (702) 455-1402 or you may email Darlene Kretunski darlene.kretunski@clarkcountynv.gov. The final commission agenda & support at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meeting/Commission/Agenda/

- **FYI**- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he will not be attending the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting on November 15, 2024 & November 16, 2024, in person or participating remotely because he is going to be celebrating with his beautiful wife in Hawaii, their 24th wedding anniversary. He stated that board member Jacob Thompson will be graciously taking attending this meeting on his behalf.

- **FYI-** Chair Paul Dixon advised that any member from the CAB or the public can attend this meeting online, there is a call-in phone number to do so.

a. **Emerging Technology Report (*For possible action*)**. The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about how emerging hardware and software related technology advancements could affect harvesting of wildlife.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised there is no back-up material for this action item. He stated when he put this action item on the agenda for tonight's meeting, he was uncertain if they would have the back-up material for this available. He advised he found out later that there was not ever any back-up material that was put together on this action item.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski asked Chair Paul Dixon if the back up material was the 2024-2025 Nevada Wildlife DRAFT Connectivity Plan.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to Secretary Darlene Kretunski, that this supporting material was not the back up material for the Emerging Technology Report. He stated this will be removed from the action report and stated there will possibly be a presentation presented by the Game Wardens regarding their visuals of what is occurring in the field.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he like at this time for (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*) explain this action item and what little he knows about this item.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he probably would have this removed from the action items due to no back up material available on this and that there will probably be a presentation on this action item at another time given by the Game Wardens on what they are seeing in the field on this.
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*): He advised that he briefly discuss this and stated he did speak with (*Lt. Game Warden Christopher Walthers, NDOW Southern Region*) and he advised that (*Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight, NDOW*) will be doing a presentation for the Commission on this item regarding the technology that the Game Warden's are seeing while they are working in the field. He stated regarding thermo and night vision hence items that are on military grade basis. He stated that (*Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight, NDOW*) will be giving more on the lines of an informational update presentation, is what he understood will take place.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he did not understand why this item was labeled action item when he felt as well it was more of a informational update as

well. He stated he placed this item as a action item to have in place in hopes that if they did provide supporting material prior to the meeting, the CAB could have a discussion on this. He advised that the CAB meeting was two weeks ahead of the Commission meeting due to not wanting to have the CAB meeting on November 5, 2024 Election Day, but to his surprise the Commission moved their date not to have their meeting on the week of the election as well to another week after the election, therefore the CAB had to make sure that the supporting material would be available for their early meeting.

- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*): He stated he wished he had more intel on this, but he suspected that it is on more informational basis.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*) that previously there were some regulations and restrictions of what was being done and he feels that (*Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight, NDOW*) and the other Game Wardens want to discuss the strengthening efforts that will be needed in the NACs and Commission General Regulations in which people are finding loopholes around the written rules that are being utilized now and enhancing electronic gadgets for harvesting animals. He feels that this is for giving the information and seeing if the Commission is willing and has the appetite for making these such changes.
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that no action will be taken on this item and this item is hereby closed.**

b. Heritage Committee Meeting Report and Cave Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Heritage Account Principal Proposal (*For possible action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the Heritage Committee Meeting Report and Cave Creek Dam Rehabilitation Heritage Account Principal Proposal.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon read the following from the support material: Titled under **Project Summary and Justification:**
- **Project Activity and Sub-Activity:** INFRASTRUCTURE and LAND: Direct infrastructure purchase, construction, or maintenance
- **Project Objectives:** To repair existing equipment or facilities.
- **NDOW Initiative Addressed:** No initiatives
- **Strategic Habitats and Threats Addressed:** (*Priority Resource Impacted, Fish, General Habitat Improvement, Priority Species Impacted: Coldwater sport fish, Does this project benefit Greater Sage-grouse or Greater Sage grouse habitat: no; Project Clearance or*

Authorization Status: Complete)

- Chair Paul Dixon read the following from the support material: Titled under **Project Rationale:** The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate Cave Creek Dam by replacing compromised facilities such as the low-level outlet and improving the dam and spillway to meet current design standards. The project has been designed, permitted and bid. Construction will include, but not be limited to: (Constructing a new principal low-level outlet; Raising the dam structure to meet required freeboard during the ½ probable maximum flood (PMF), Constructing a buttress structure on the downstream side of the dam to improve the factor of safety values during the design seismic event and to control seepage at the toe of the dam, Enlarging the spillway to pass the design ½ PMF, Armoring the upstream and downstream dam faces, and spillway.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he feels that the cost to do these things have superseded the amount therefore the Heritage Account will have to cover the final cost for completion.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that would be an extra million dollars.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt that it looks to be that is correct therefore asking for million of the estimated fourteen or fifteen million dollars that is in the Heritage Account at this time.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that considering what Cave Lake is presently and in past as a sports fishery, and now is out of commission for four years probably, he asked this question to (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*).
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*): He stated it has been at least three years.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised the nice part of Cave Creek Dam is not having to deal with the issue of mercury but stated that unfortunately Comins Lake is fed by Cave Creeks and people still like to place pike into the Comins Lake.
- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*): He stated that there is large amount of mercury in the Cave Lake too.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated what is being asked is that the CAB concurs with the Department of Wildlife stating approval of million dollars per each project from Heritage funding for final completion of Cave Creeek Dam. He stated the thought process is to start filling the Dam and by doing so, it should be completed within 18-24 months.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that he was up at Cave Creek Dam on Saturday and made it a point to make his way to the location to see

the progress that had been made. He stated he had reviewed a report on this project and assumed it would have been further along than what he seen and that it was being filled. He stated instead he saw a backhoe digging dirt at the top of the dam. He stated it seems to him by viewing it, that progress is being made but not certain how close they are to having it filled.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member Brian Patterson that he is under the impression at this point with the million-dollar funding there is a attempt to put on the top coat of the dam in order to get stabilization.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated it looks clean and the outflow is done and looks massive.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member Brian Patterson that at the last Commission meeting the question was asked about the time needed to fill Cave Creek and that is when it was stated 18-24 months and with Cave Creek in the spring it has a high flow into the creek and if there are two good winters then he feels that Cave Creek will be full.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to Chair Paul Dixon that there was a large amount of fish habitat surrounding the dry lake. He stated he felt this area was newly built therefore he knows now of this location when he is getting ready to fish again.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he believed the total expenditures is thirteen million dollars.
- Board member John Hiatt stated what is puzzling to him is this sentence, he read the following: under **Project Rationale**: *(Raising the dam structure to meet required freeboard during the ½ probable maximum flood (PMF)*; he stated what is occurring with climate change and given flood volumes and the magnitudes, and with that, they are only raising the dam to 50% of the total maximum of what the flood would be. He stated this to him is a gross under design. He gave examples of Hurricane Hilary and stated that the rain events that are occurring now are much more intense then in the past twenty years. He stated with that in mind if the design for the Dam is only for half of the probable maximum floods, then again this is to him a under design.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to board member John Hiatt that that is a good point, and he felt that obvioulsy that they had to check the water shed prior to the design. He stated it is possible that with the new outflow they can open it up.
- Public Comments: (Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region): He stated that with the new design flow it gives more flexibility for a large amount of water.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that the bottom portion of the Dam can drain

more water, he stated they made it extra larger. He stated when the Commission meeting was held in Ely, Nevada and it was discussed at that time about the outflow size of the dam.

- Board member John Hiatt read the following: under **Project Rationale** (*Enlarging the spillway to pass the design ½ PMF*).
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt that it is always over the top, but he is referring to the bottom portion the outflow.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that on spillway everyone is learning after what took place at the Oroville Dam.
- Board member Alexander Harper asked Board member John Hiatt about the Oroville Dam incident.
- Board member John Hiatt gave brief synopsis stating the dam basically failed and almost collapsed.
- **FYI- (Oroville Dam, California 2017)**: *This was one of the most serious dam safety incidents in U.S. history, and the estimated cost for the repairs and recovery was about 1.1 billion. In February 2017, heavy rainfall damaged Oroville Dam's main and emergency spillways, prompting the evacuation of more than 180,000 people living downstream along the Feather River and the relocation of a fish hatchery.*
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that the Cave Creek Dam had a small leak at the bottom, and they tried to repair that leak, with the main concern of not losing the entire dam. He advised they have done the spillway.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked board member John Hiatt if he felt that the state water engineer assigned to this would approve this and would think he only had to design spillway to pass the ½ PMF.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon, that was his interruption.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt that in the state engineer was the one who gave the guidelines that were in place in order to rebuild the dam.
- Board member John Hiatt stated the question is how many square miles for the watershed is. He stated how big is the watershed that feeds into this. He stated this is what is the determination of the safety factor. He stated he is unaware of the square miles required for a watershed but realizes that potentially you have a large amount of water in the watershed, and it is steep and comes quickly.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he assumes it goes into the planning and design viewed and dealt with by the state engineers.

- Board member John Hiatt once again reiterated to Chair Paul Dixon by reading the following under **Project Rationale**: (*Enlarging the spillway to pass the design ½ PMF*): He stated it seems to be a under design because unless there is a increase in all parts of the dam based upon the PMP of the flood with the design updated as opposed to what it would have been ten to twelve years ago. He stated that the CAB may be beyond their enterprise and knowledge on this regarding the engineering portion of this. He stated that PMF failures are known in these situations prior.
- Board member Brian Patterson read under **Project Rationale**: (*Enlarging the spillway to pass the design ½ PMF*): He stated he has never heard of this terminology, he stated not much can be done at this point, he is only concerned about the operation of the dam now.
- Board member John Hiatt stated it would be nice to have a explanation on this.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to Jacob Thompson that he should ask at the Commission meeting on this matter is why is it only ½ probable maximum flood (PMF).
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he will also make a note for himself as well.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member Jacob Thompson that it is a good question, and it is information that the CAB does not have at hand.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated if Cave Lake became that full, his concern would be more about what would happen next to Comins Lake, and it is becoming full and overflowing.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*) that if the dam were to fail, then everything down stream would be at risk including Comins Lake which flows down to Steptoe Valley and it maybe high enough not to flood but maybe not.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated he was not referring to the body of water coming down to Cave Lake but instead the volume of water coming down to Comins Lake as well.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*) sixty-five acres times 30 feet depth.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated he is talking about two separate places (Cave Lake & Comins Lake).
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that there are two different water sheds that fed those two places. He stated most of Comins Lake is fed from Steptoe.

- Public Comments: *(Bob Bobbett, member of the public)*: He asked the question is there that much snow path that could create that much runoff of water.
- Public Comments: *(Mark Transue, member of the public)*: He asked Chair Paul Dixon if the million dollars requested is million, they already have or is it a million that they would like to have.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to (Mark Transue, member of the public): He advised that the million dollars is coming from the Heritage account.
- Public Comments: *(Mark Transue, member of the public)*: He stated he was in the construction business for thirty-five years and owned a construction company of his own for a time and when making a bid one cannot come later and ask for additional funds.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that the additional million dollars requested is a fixed price bid and there was possibly a change order at the end. He stated these changes were something that was not included in the original contract therefore costing more. He stated with the fixed price bids there is probably a caveat on it that comes in place when you must change things on the contract, giving them the ability to come forth thereafter and ask for more funding.
- Board Brian Patterson stated to Chair Paul Dixon that there was a million and half in contingency fund at 15 percent. He stated during construction there are unforeseen things that occur. He advised it is easy after doing multiple projects on this to reach the total of \$13,414,572.00 million.
- FYI- on bottom of Page Under **Project Rationale the last paragraph states the following:** *The estimated funding required to construct the project is \$13,414,572.00 which includes project management, construction administration, construction services (construction inspection and testing and materials testings), and a 15% contingency. The other funding sources that have been identified for the project total are approximately \$1,000,000,000 less than estimated amount of funding needed to complete the project.*
- Public Comments: *(Mark Transue, member of the public)*: He stated when he worked construction when working for a bid with government contracting, there would be overflated pricing and gave example of \$100 dollars for a toilet seat.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated the bottom line on this is when you get to the point where you run into a problem financially, the contract can be renegotiated. He stated many companies will do a change order in which they can rebase line requesting additional funds. He stated he would guess that it was at a fixed price, and it was rebase lined requesting a

additional million dollars therefore giving a change order that cost a million more dollars.

- Board member John Hiatt advised to Chair Paul Dixon that this need for additional funds may have been found after they took the dam apart.
- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*): He stated he is hoping that they do not come again requesting more money.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member John Hiatt that he did know that fraction of limestone on the side of the dam they used clay to seal it to avoid leakage around the dam.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised that he feels by using past models to predict future outcomes is something to ponder upon and stated he does not know a lot on this subject but sees with the watershed in researching, that there is a risk of a decent amount of flooding in the mountain range.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that when mining companies are building a retention ponds, he reiterated that the state engineer must state that the retention pond must hold the mining companies set up but also must hold any amount of water coming down the watershed as well. He stated most of the mining debris, the mining companies fill in watersheds and must be able to state that you can fill enough waterflow to take it downstream. He reiterated if there is a issue with ½ PMF then the state engineer handles this. He stated the state holds the liability for this.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated he realized that they do have a completion date which will be in three weeks from tonight.
- **FYI:** Page 1 under **Project Schedule**: The project was initiated in April of 2023 and is ongoing with an anticipated **completion date of 11/23/2024** weather permitting.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that this would fall into line of his observation of the project and what phase the project is at this time. He stated it will not be a lot of water to fill the dam in winter obviously but come spring the dam should be filled quite nicely.
- Board member John Hiatt advised a motion to accept Heritage Committee Meeting Report and Cave Creek Rehabilitation Heritage Account Principal Proposal as presented.
- Board member Brian Patterson seconds this motion.
- Motion passes 5-0. (*Board member Dave Talaga has left the meeting*).

c. **Discussion and recommendation on an update to Policy 67- Wild Horse and Burro (*For possible action*).** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about an update to Policy 67-Wild Horse and Burro.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that Policy 67 came out in 2024, and put together by NDOW staff (*Amanda Gearhart, Ph.D., Wildlife Staff Specialist and Habitat Division*).
- Chair Paul Dixon stated this presentation gives information for On-Range Populations (horses and burros), discussions on different agencies (BLM) Bureau of Land Management, (USFS) U.S. Forest Service, (NDA) Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Tribes, and environmental and population challenges, and (AUM) Animal Unit Months comparisons. He stated it discusses what role NDOW takes in this as well as what methods are used to contain horses and burros from certain areas.
- Board member John Hiatt stated this is a status report on policy and advised that NDOW does not have any action except for polling comments, and they are not in charge.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt that we are not in charge but there is Policy 67 which is part of this report and stated that the CAB always talks about (BLM) Bureau of Land Management because that is the only part where they can give recommendations on what is going on.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that there is another place where the CAB does have a say on horses in the Virginia Range where the horses are state owned because they are stray horses and are the responsibility of the Nevada Department of Agriculture.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised all funding is coming from Congress and he stated the money was not put into the management of horses.
- Board member John Hiatt advised in 2008 when the state of Wyoming sued the federal government and advised that Congress does not appropriate more money therefore leaving (BLM) Bureau of Land Management to divert funds from other programs to state of Wyoming to cover the lawsuit owed thus leading to things with the horses and burros getting out of control. He stated the amount for (AML) Appropriate Management Level; therefore, things have deteriorated since 2008. He stated this change was due to the federal government having to divert funding from all the other states to pay the state of Wyoming due to the court order.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated the current policy in place states that the Commission

recognizes that the free roaming horses and burros' population may pose a problem due to the current and future health of the wildlife and the pre-roaming of horses and burros themselves.

- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that these animals will eat you out of house and home.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated when moving horses off the Spring Mountain area, 96% of these horses were euthanized due to body conditions and they could not be rehabilitated therefore they were euthanized. He stated we all want to see horses on the range but with managing the population to not have the horses and burros eat themselves out of house and home or not having a impact on other wildlife. He stated previous Wildlife Commissioners had policies put in place that restrictions to the wild horses and burros by fencing certain water supplies this did not help the situation. He stated this literature states the position of the Commission and what they support and the work that they do with the other agencies. He stated that the CAB have no teeth in this matter at the end of the day.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated the purpose of Policy 67 is having all the information needed on horses and burros and putting the proper information out there. He read from the following: under Agency Infor: On-Range Populations (BLM NV) 43,693.
- Board member John Hiatt asked Chair Paul Dixon this information is of what year.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt it is as of 2024.
- Chair Paul Dixon continued stating Herd Management for (BLM) Bureau of Land Management in Nevada is 83 as opposed Nationally for (BLM) Bureau of Land Management is 177.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that they are called Herd Management because they also include burros.
- Chair Paul Dixon continued stating (AML) Appropriate Management Level Nationally is 26,785 and for Nevada it is 12,811. He stated the On-Range Populations Nationally for (BLM) Bureau of Land Management is 73,520.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that he feels it should be more like 48,000 and stated it is range wide.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that is total range and is basically looking at for Nevada is 53,934.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated he has supporting material from two years ago (January 2022) and it states in NV number of horses 54,000 therefore with the new total in 2024 it shows 53,934 which shows a decline.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that is due to the round ups of horses that is done yearly.

- Board member Brian Patterson reiterated that last weekend while he was in the Schell Creek Range there were a hundred of horses in the North end but in the south end there were no horses.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that in 2008 the biomass of wild horses and burros was almost equal to that of ungulates in Nevada but currently the biomass now is three times of all wild ungulates, therefore showing that the wild horses are eating massive amounts, and this is why the ranges are in the condition that they are in. He stated this is reflected in areas like Cold Creek where there is very little vegetation due to wild horses.
- Brian Patterson reiterated that the horses he seen on the North end of Schell Creek Range were healthy.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he got involved with the wildlife because of his first year of hunting in Nevada he was hunting and he seen the damage that the wild horses were doing to the landscape. He stated he complained and the next thing he knew he was on the board. He stated to board member Brian Patterson that this report does reflect that there was a decline in 2023-2024. He stated that for the advocates, birth control is one of the important issues, the problem is birth control is not feasible to do when you have large herd.
- Board member John Hiatt advised another reason is when you have multiple horses of the same color it makes it difficult to do birth control.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised the only place he seen the horses get challenged was at Mt. Charleston there was a guy throwing out hay and the bull elk came down and the bull elk ended up killing some of the wild horses. He stated another incident was before moving the wild horses off Schell Creek Range there was enough mountain lion killing the wild horses.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that mountain lions normally only get the younger horses that are smaller rarely do they kill the older horses.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised with funding being tight in general he does not see this issue going away. He stated it is a report of update of information on wild horses and burros and the organizations that handle the horses, and it is more so report rather than policies.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked Secretary Darlene Kretunski did she receive the link that he sent out from (*Linda Barr, Executive Assistant Director Jenne of NDOW, Reno*).
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski advised she did receive this link.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to the CAB that he sent the link to them as well and they should have received it.
- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*): He stated that they must have done a good job of removing the horses in Schell Creek Range and

advised he has been in this area, and he has been camping in this area with his kids and did not see any horses but seen the same five burros on the same stretch of highway.

- Board member John Hiatt advised if you go to Bonanza Springs the horses and the other springs in this area, springs, the springs have been trashed.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he hiked on Mt. Charleston near Kyle Canyon on that loop there.
- Board member John Hiatt asked Chair Paul Dixon was he referring to Kyle Canyon or Lee Canyon.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he was referring to Kyle Canyon on that loop. He stated there were certain areas in this loop where horses and burros were stopping and defecating.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that these areas were stud piles.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated yes, these areas were stud piles.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that was interesting historically there have been rare instances of horses in Kyle Canyon, it is normally in Lee Canyon. He stated therefore if the horses were in Kyle Canyon, that is bad news.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that as the populations grow then people will see site of the horses in this area.
- Board member John Hiatt stated yes, they will go to this area for food.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated that he felt that wild horse's status should be changed to a game animal.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised in other countries the horses are considered pets, the same as dogs and cats, but in other countries horses are food sources. He stated we do not eat horses in this country, but we will eat a cow. He stated that horses have totalitarianism purposes beyond that of a cow.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that in 2005 Senator Hanson and other senators passed a bipartisan amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill will eliminate funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors in slaughterhouses for one fiscal year. He advised that the Senator felt that horses are pets just like dogs and cats therefore why would one consume them as food.
- FYI -U.S. Senate passed amendment prohibits the use of any federal taxpayer funds to slaughter horses for food exports. These measures will effectively stop American horses from being killed in three slaughterhouses in the U.S. that slaughter horses (two in Texas and one in Illinois). The amendment also stops horses from being shipped to slaughterhouses in Canada or Mexico, so that their meat can be exported to foreign countries.
- **FYI- BILL H.R.503-** *Passed without an amendment (09/07/2006) Amends the Horse Protection Act to define: (1) "human consumption" as ingestion by people as a source of food; and (2) "slaughter" as the killing of one or more equines*

without the intent to see or trade the flesh for human consumption. Prohibits the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to detain for examination, testing or the taking of evidence: (1) any horse at any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction which is sore or which the Secretary has probable cause to believe is sore; and (2) any horse or other equine which the Secretary has probable cause to believe is being shipped, transported, moved, delivered, received, possessed, purchased, sold, or donated in violation of such prohibition. Increases the annual authorization of appropriations.

- Board member John Hiatt stated the group called Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses- and they are on horse issues with lobbying in Washington and other places to convince legislators that the problem exists, and it is costing a lot of money and causing damage to states land.
- **FYI- Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses-** It is a coalition comprised of members of conservation organizations, natural resource professionals, and concerned individuals dedicated to creating and implementing change for the health of Nevada's lands, wildlife and free roaming horses and burros.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised the threat right now is horses to Sage-grouses. He reiterated that there will be damage to the landscape as board member John Hiatt as indicated.
- **FYI (Horse Slaughter Safe Act)** *This bill prohibits the slaughter of equines horses and mules for human consumption would federally ban horse slaughter in the U.S. as well as the export of American horses abroad for slaughter.*
- Public Comments: *(Therese Campbell, member of the public):* She stated between feral horses and feral burros and the livestock and cows eating the same landscape also including deer and elk and bighorn sheep populations eating as well. She asked the question will all these animals, some placed in these areas by humans, is there enough landscape available for these animals to eat.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to *(Therese Campbell, member of the public)* is that deers are browsers and elk are ungulates and are mostly grazers therefore these populations are thriving in areas where the landscape where there are alfalfa pivots, but the issue happens on these pivots with irrigated landscaping in certain areas such as (Austin Nevada by top of State Route 375 with large squirrel populations from old mining days. He told a story of a farmer's son named Ralph Young who shot with his rifle, 250 burros who were on their irrigated pivots eating on this area for multiple days but was caught in the act of digging a hole and burying the burros, only because there was a drone flying over from NDOW who captured him in the act therefore banning for life his fishing and

hunting privileges and he had to pay fine of \$2,000 dollars as well.

- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that if you multiple 250 times \$2,000 dollar fine, that is a hefty fine.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised if NDOW did not do a fly over with the drone the farmer's son would have gotten away without knowledge of anyone knowing. He stated in places such as Beatty Nevada where people are shooting burros, attempting to take matters into their own hands. He stated there will be more people after obtaining hunting license and not seeing deer, antelope, or elk and decide instead to shoot burros.
- Board member John Hiatt advised prior to the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 197, Beatty Nevada would have burros' barbeques yearly.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated that Beatty Nevada would have wild burros' races yearly as well.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he like to see the Commission work with the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free Roaming Horses.
- Board member John Hiatt advised to Chair Paul Dixon that Sherman Swanson oversees this. He stated he would state that the CAB is happy to see that the report was put together by department, summarizing the process in the current situation therefore would like the department to continue working closely with Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that the good news is the Humane Society of America and the (ASPCA) American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, both have signed on with recognition that uncontrollable numbers of wild horses are devastating the landscape for themselves and other wildlife. He stated both are onboard with prevention for this issue, taking lethal control out of this equation. He stated to talk about things that are feasible, and to not have discussion on lethal control. He stated birth control could work if there could ever get down to a feasible amount. He stated by using both methods of birth control and adoption that would help this issue. He stated but unfortunately the annual increase is overwhelming. He stated that 50 percent of the mares that are gathered up thus increasing costs. He gave example stating if 10,000 horses were in the roundup and 60 percent of them were females, then that means there will receive 3,000 folds out of this after roundup, therefore the numbers rapidly escalate.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that we support the groups with attempting to do these things, but bottom line is just stating support these issues and advised he does not know what else to state.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that we need to be lobbying to our legislators on this issue but stated unfortunately there are people such as Congresswoman Dina Titus is an advocate for the wild horses. He advised she wants to do nothing and

not interfere with the wild horses. He stated she has introduced legislation to use cowboys for roundups of the horses and not helicopters to roundup horses. He stated she has no clear understanding of this issue of letting cowboys attempt to round up wild horses with their horses and what might happen to their horses by the wild horses during this process.

- Board member John Hiatt stated this has been done previously and did not work well.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked board member John Hiatt if he thinks there is going to be an amendment to the Wild Horse and Burros Act with the Coalition for Health Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he did not feel that would be realistic to do so. He stated instead just asking for appropriations to get more revenue to do roundup and reduce number for the (AML) Appropriate Management Level. He stated if not then the annual increase will only be overwhelming.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated that throwing money at the issue does not solve the problem.
- Board member John Hiatt advised to (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*) that throwing money at some issues does not work but in this situation if the funds are not allocated then there will be no way of reduction of the number of horses to get them down to proper (AML) Appropriate Management Level. He stated funds can be allocated now or there will have to be massive amounts allocated later. He stated you will see twice to four times as many horses later.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He stated he would rather see money given to the (BLM) Bureau of Land Management legally, then bring the number of horses down on the range to the agreed upon number.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*) that this worked when Wyoming sued the federal government.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that there was enough money in the program that let (BLM) Bureau of Land Management defer money from the rest of the state to pay Wyoming for the lawsuit. He stated today there is not enough money in the program, and one cannot sue Congress, and this is where the issue is.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that members of Congress can be replaced, we have 30 days before the elections. He stated that this does not mean that the new replacements in Congress would be familiar with the issues at hand.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that with limited seats in Congress, he is certain this issue will be contested.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that he like motion to state Commission Policy 67 updates were appreciated and the CAB feels that the department needs to

concrete on working with all interested parties to reduce the number of wild horses and burros on the public landscape.

- Board member Alexander Harper seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

d. **Commission Regulation 24-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2025-2026 (*For possible action*).** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Commission Regulation 24-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2025-2026 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines and take of raptors for falconry.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked board member Alexander Harper to introduce this topic and give his expertise on this action item pertaining to falconry.
- Board member Alexander Harper stated the next action item is item (d) Commission Regulation 24-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2025-2026, for possible action. He read the summary describing this action: The CCABMW will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Commission Regulation 24-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2025-2026 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines and take of raptors for falconry. He asked if he was stating this action item correctly.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member Alexander Harper that he is doing just fine and stated he will ask of each member of the CAB on an item, and he realizes that he has a passion just like him regarding raptors. He asked Chair Paul Dixon if he should just start with looking directly at the quotas that are listed.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that he should be discussing seasons and quotas.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member Alexander Harper that there are seasons for collecting and then the quotas are listed.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt, the CAB is ok with the seasons, but he advised the question is are we alright with the quotas that NDOW has been reporting. He asked the question if the quotas are based on actual recommendations, correct.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he was uncertain about that statement.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW, Southern Region*) if the take was based upon the natural take.
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*): He stated it is all migratory.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated those numbers are based upon migratory takes.

- Board member John Hiatt advised that some of the quotas recommended did not make sense.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised that looking at the quota amounts indicated and thinking about the quotas that we have for these species, some stand out to be a little troublesome. He stated Merlin with a Species Quota of 50; he advised that Merlin is not common falcon in the state of Nevada but can be common in other areas. He stated another concern is with the Great Horned Owl for falconry in which they are not trainable to catch prey then bring it back to the falconer. He stated that is not what owls are known to do, and they are not uncommon in this state. He stated the Great Horn Owl is not common in this state. He stated Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk are not trainable and related to Goshawk. He stated he does not know of many falconers for these species of birds.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk, he stated these hawks basically do not hunt rabbits, they may occasionally kill rabbits. He stated for falconry to take Sharp-shinned Hawk, they prey on sparrow sized birds due to their size. He stated are we serious in asking falconers to try to catch sparrows and advised he just does not think so. He stated it is making no sense.
- Board Alexander stated that is the same for American Kestrel who feed on grasshoopers, dragonflies, and sometimes mice and small birds.
- Board member John Hiatt advised the value of a American Kestrel is training young falconers to learn how to take care of you birds. He advised it does not cost a lot to buy food for this bird. He advised for young people who are interested in learning to become a falconer, getting an American Kestrel is the first bird is not unreasonable.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated that he is not looking at the acutal limits right now in front of him, and that he attended a Board of Wildlife Commission meeting a year ago and would like to reference on some of the things he found out at that meeting. He stated there was discussion on possibility of the usage of Golden Eagles and he was surprised to learn of the actual rate of capture therefore he stated he has sympathic to what board member Alexander Harper is stating regarding limits being over what they should be. He stated that the number of these birds that were being taken in the state of Nevada yearly, was low single digits with some being zero. He advised hence this might be an argument in favor of what board member Alexander Harper is stating to lower the quota number capture limit because it would not affect anything. He stated the argument could also be not doing anything to the quota number limit because it never comes close to the limit and gave example of the Great Horned Owls are zero and Merlin Hawks might have been two. He reiterated that his discussion was from the Board of Wildlife Commission meeting he attended.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised there has not been anyone speaking at the meeting on this

matter since the laws were converting from state to federal level and felt that the falconer community is satisfied and if there were any issues they would speak up for their community. He stated in past if they disliked an issue, they would speak up on it and send correspondence as well. He stated he assumed that the falconer community is content with what is happening at this time. He stated Cooper's Hawk and Hoshawk are the same size as pigeons. He stated that Red-tailed Hawks will take rabbits or small bugs.

- Board member Brian Patterson stated that there are only 20-30 licensed falconers in the state of Nevada. He stated if each falconer is allowed two Cooper's Hawks, then this is how they are getting the species quotas of 50.
- Board member John Hiatt stated these birds live long time therefore each year the falconers do not need to get additional birds because the falconer has the bird for the remaining part of their lives especially if they are taking these birds from the nest after they hatch.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated he thought that the falconer can take the bird and train the bird for a few seasons and release the bird.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that some falconers do this. He stated when looking at the supporting material and give example: Merlins, it seems that the individuals who made this supporting material do not know what the situation is by having a quota which is higher than the falconer will ever receive. He stated it fails to recognize what the situation is.
- Board member Jacob Thompsons stated that falconers are often in possession of falcons or raptors generally, for rehabilitate them, giving reason of why the allowance of transferring Golden Eagles into Nevada from California. He stated this was passed at the Commission meeting and stated the reasoning of higher limits for possession that falconers often have them for rehabilitation. He stated most falconers do not have more than a handful of birds, just a few due to regulations from size of enclosures and how they are kept, therefore creating a prohibitive and lots of work. He reiterated what board member John Hiatt stated that the birds are trained only for a few years and then released.
- Board member Alexander Harper asked that the amount of Merlin species quotas go down from 50 to a much lower number. He stated the Great Horned Owl is not really a falconry bird you can have one in captivity, but they can't be trained and can be taken off the list.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated to board member Alexander Harper that he felt that due to rehabilitation of the birds is the reasoning of why the Great Horned Owl is listed.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that he understands that rehabilitators are licensed separately from falconers and one needs a rehabilitators license to rehabilitate these birds and allows you to have these birds therefore the falconer regulations is

irrelevant.

- Board member Jacob Thompson stated to board member John Hiatt and board member Alexander Harper, that the reasoning behind the Golden Eagles being allowed from California to Nevada pass the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission is due to falconers can take birds from rehabilitation facilities when these facilities are either overcrowded or there are no other resources to care for these birds. He advised this was the rationale for this decision and the change in the law. He feels these falconers are like nurse practitioner in a hospital setting, they take care of birds have possession for rehabilitation and toward the end stages of rehabilitation.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski asked board member Jacob Thompson did he indicate in previous meeting minutes that there are more Golden Eagles in California than Nevada, becoming injured due to interactions with humans, natural injuries such as powerlines, or being hit by vehicles. He stated they would like to give to falconers in Nevada to finish the rehabilitation and there are more falconers to do this job, and the environment is closest to the environment in California.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski asked Chair Paul Dixon if he would like for her to add in the finding from the meeting that board member Jacob Thompson had previously attended for reference to this action item.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he would like for her to do so.
- **FYI- Previous findings from board member Jacob Thompson from Commission Meeting he attended on 11/4/2022 & 11/5/2022 (Regarding Taking Raptors from Falconry):** He previously stated the issue was brought up by member of the public who is a Master Falconer, and the purpose is to foster falconry and raptor preservation efforts. He advised there are between 42 to 47 individuals in the state of Nevada who are Master Falconers. He stated that the number of raptors taken by Master Falconers is small. He advised that only one of the raptors are taken from the clutch of the liter and in most cases the parents will shove their young out of the clutch causing death. He advised that there is a group called California Golden Eagles Rehabilitators who wanted to send surplus of Golden Eagles population that need rehabilitation to Nevada due to California being up to their capacity to have the ability to deal with this issue. He stated that in the state of Nevada it is illegal to have a Golden Eagle.
- **FYI- Previous findings from board member Jacob Thompson from Commission Meeting he attended on 11/4/2022 & 11/05/2022 (Regarding Taking Raptors from Falconry):** He stated with Merlin Hawk that after taking the numbers and data presented, it clearly indicated that each species of Merlin Hawk total taken was below 10 for each category of this species. He advised that the number could be as low as 2, even though it was set at 50, with little chance of it exceeding over single digits. He advised that regardless of when given the

total number taken over the course of 5 to 7 years, the total was less than 10 except in the case of the categories of the Red-Tailed Hawk

- Board member Alexander Harper advised a motion to approve Commission Regulation 24-14 2025 and 2026 Seasons and Permit Quotas for taking Raptors for Falconry as presented with the possibility of lowering species Quotas for Sharp-shinned Hawk to (30) and Merlin (10) and Great Horned Owl (10) and the remaining species listed quotas can remain as written.
- Board member John Hiatt seconds the motion.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asks for the species quotas for these birds because he does not have the supporting material in front of him.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that the total for all species is the same Species Quotas (50).
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member Jacob Thompson that the Species Quotas collected now should not make a difference and this change will allow more of the animals to be brought in for rehabilitation for the species.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

e. **Commission Regulation 24-15, Non-commercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2025-2026 (*For possible action*).** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Commission Regulation 24-15, Non-Commercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2025-2026 seasons and limits for non-commercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon let (*Steve Stockings, Herpetologist*) speak about Nevada Non-commercial regulations for Reptiles and Amphibians. He stated that it seemed that everyone has received his correspondence. He asked were there any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the material at this time.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked (*Steve Stockings, Herpetologist*) if he could please give a less than 5-to-10-minute synopsis on the material submitted and advise why he felt this way on this topic.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stockings, Herpetologist*) advised he had previously sent correspondence in August 2024 to the Wildlife Commission during the time when the bi-annual regulation for Non-commercial Reptile quotas were up for periodic review. He stated this is a rare opportunity to bring this issue forthcoming as it seems to be always on the back burner historically. He stated there are two basic points in the supporting material he provided, 1) No change or adjustments have been done to the bag limits on reptiles that are indigenous to the state and when he has been reviewing, he noticed as far back as two years prior, there have been zero changes to the

bag limit, he stated a decade. He stated he feels that the list is not being actively managed resulting in many discrepancies. He gave examples of Wildlife Action Plan coming out with species with greatest conservation need, adding some species and dropping some species causing a key indicator. He stated when a species is elevated to species with greatest conservation need, this should be a key indicator for a reduction for bag limits for non-commercial collection giving that this species has been considered as being sensitive and should be monitored and watched. He stated the other discrepancies are with those lists with a couple of species that are not on the species of greatest conservation need in 2012 Wildlife Action Plan or not put on in the 2022 plan, and they are with a bag limit of 0. He stated considering that the species is not considered sensitive then why is a bag limit warranted as most of the other species are unprotected species. He stated giving these examples like those he feels with a little application of known data in the last several years, giving better data on abundance and distribution of species then people led on. He stated therefore he felt in some cases the bag limit could be slightly raised with risks taken, but the issue of bag limits and actively managing it merits some discussion and consideration for modification of bag limits for several species. He stated he feels the department biologist should go species by species and there is not enough time to do that in this quick overview therefore getting to the second part of his recommendation of instituting a license requirement to hunt, collect, capture Herpetofauna in the state of Nevada. He stated this issue is dear to him due to him engaging in this activity with enjoyment with reptiles and amphibians with consideration of himself as a sportsman the same as angler or hunter would. He stated he engages in this when he travels around the United States. He stated in California and Arizona are some of the states he goes too in which you must purchase a license to follow the law. He stated therefore this gives him skin in the game under the North American Wildlife Management in which you pay to play to enjoy these natural resources and any sort of consumptive use of the resources or enjoyment of these public resources. He advised that this issue is coming up at the November 15, 2024 & November 16, 2024, Commission meeting at Reno, Nevada. He stated he did not see a discussion of a hunting or fishing license or some sort of license or permit requirement to engage in collection of hunting or collecting of Herpetofauna. He stated he feels that this merits discussion at a minimum and it should be instituted solely for the appropriation of management of the wildlife. He stated license requirement would bring in a much badly needed revenue to assist management of these species and he believes it is simply the right thing to be done. He asked did anyone have any questions for him.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated that there were some comparisons given in this presentation discussing between Arizona and Utah, Idaho and Nevada, based on this information and reviewing geography and viewing the type of landscape, he stated that some portions of California, Arizona, Nevada are possibly are more akin to environmental things but he does not feel this pertains to as much as Idaho and Utah which is more restrictive but based upon this the state of Nevada seems to rate on the low end of what you are discussing. He asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) what would be his recommendations on the bag limits as opposed to what is in place of the current statute regarding where Nevada stands versus other states.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated that this question does not merit a simple answer because it is going species by species, he gave example of one of the common species he Gopher snake which is widespread in the west and in all the states with a bag limit in California of (4); Arizona (4); Utah is (3) but they allow three per year for three years collecting three per year for a total of (9). He advised these bag limits and possessions are higher than Nevada. He stated in the case of California and Arizona having greater population there would be more numbers of non-commercial collectors engaging in the activity than in Nevada. He reiterated that the Gopher is widespread in the state and occurs statewide and in many habitat types therefore this is one of the examples that raising the bag limit slightly on a non-commercial level would be appropriate and not taking any risks for that species. He stated under the Wildlife Action Plan it is not at risk or endangered.
- Board member John Hiatt asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) how many Gopher snakes would one need or want in some point and time, he stated you have 2 per year currently, in two years that total would be 4, what is being done with all these snakes.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stockings, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member John Hiatt that the bag limits in Nevada are (2) total with no higher possession than the bag limit, he was discussing Utah previously which allows the bag limit to increase as previously stated with the example of Gopher snakes. He stated for personal use and personal enjoyment of these species, he advised he does not personally know of anyone who collected in Utah a total of (9) Gopher snakes, for their own personal possession and enjoyment. He stated that if they have a predilection for these snakes, his thought process is that these individuals would simply collect one or two and enjoy them. He stated by having a higher bag limit does is example: collector takes home a Gopher female snake which produces eggs and incubators and hatch these eggs out and by doing so they are over the bag limit required or the possession limit simply by engaging in lawful and

appropriate activity. The law in Nevada is clear, that once an individual goes over the bag limit or possession limit, the individual must be gifted away with no commercial provisions to sell all the additional species, he stated this is appropriate and that it prevents commercial exploitation of native wildlife. He stated if additional species then these species need to be disposed of under the direction of the department or gifted away.

- Board member Jacob Thompson asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) if he indicated purchase of license in both states of Arizona and California.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He responded to board member Jacob Thompson stating yes that is correct, yearly.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) if he would mind telling the amount it cost to have a out of state license for the state of California and Arizona.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member Jacob Thompson, he indicated he purchased a full year license yearly and stated in California to hunt reptiles and amphibians you must purchase a fishing license and he purchases a annual fishing license at a veterans rate costing \$60.00 dollars yearly and in Arizona requires a hunting license to hunt reptiles and they require fishing license to hunt amphibians and quad turtles therefore he purchases a combine fishing license without any veterans discount costing \$160.00 yearly. He stated he has no problem paying these amounts because this is something he likes to do, and he enjoys. He stated there are individuals who are coming to Nevada and purchasing short term or long-term license for this activity if it was required.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) if there were any regulations on method of take in these states.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He responded to board member Jacob Thompson that there are regulations on method of take in these states.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked if (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) could give brief synopsis on these regulations.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member Jacob Thompson that he did not have this information in front of him but believes that the regulations for Arizona and California but believe they are like Nevada. He stated example would be collecting by hand or with a snake hook or if its lizards you may collect with a noose and most trapping methods are not permitted except under a scientific methodology with a scientific collecting license. He stated in Nevada one cannot destroy the landscape meaning break open rock or crevices and not in Arizona or California.

- Board member Jacob Thompson stated to (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) that this is not something that he often thought about personally for awhile and was interesting that this action item was brought to the board even though he knows it will be going to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners soon and he appreciates (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) coming to speak with the CAB. He stated in the spirit of what was presented he feels that this is mirroring, this method which is what we should be doing based upon the North American Model of Wildlife Management. He stated that he felt that both of your suggestions of consideration for both bag limits and license process are great. He stated the one item of concern is stating what if the kids go out and grab lizards here and there, will the kids get into trouble for this.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He asked board member Jacob Thompson about the minors permits or licensing for hunting and fishing in Nevada.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated to (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) that minors can fish under a certain age for free that he knows.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member Jacob Thompson that he feels that should be discussed with in details with the department on how to layout the license requirements for reptiles and amphibians stating allowing minors under the age of (whatever their choice is) are allowed to collect small number of reptiles and amphibians for free. He stated that there is a lot of overturns with the diversity directive therefore losing a large amount of corporate institutional knowledge has been lost but it is time to work through all of this and formulate a policy.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that in 2017 the commercial reptile funding ended with at that time the Herpetologist was Jason Jones.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he knows Jason Jones the previous Herpetologist.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised discussing that there were thousands of pitfall trap in desert where people were catching scorpions and other species while they were in the process of removal of the pitfalls from the landscape. He stated in 2018 next year after ending of reptile funding the question was asked was there any effort from NDOW or any other organizational effort to remove pitfall traps from the environment and this time the answer was no. He stated it was used to stop non-commercial collecting but unfortunately these things do not exist in the environment any longer and stated he can take the CAB out to the desert, and he can show where pitfall traps still exist. He asked if (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) was aware of any organized process

since 2018 that has went out to alleviate the pitfall problem.

- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): he indicated to Chair Paul Dixon that he was not aware of any. He stated he went out with Jason Jones who was the Herpetologist at that time late 2017 and early 2018 in areas such as the near the Amargosa Valley, Eldorado Valley, did find pitfall lines in couple of these sites in the valley that didn't appear to be active or were in disuse and removed all the traps that could be found on the landscape at that time. He stated following up beyond this it ended up being more inserted and NDOW is resource pulling on this and was relying on him and other volunteers to assist in these types of efforts. He stated that if he is out in the field enjoying their recreation, he has run across things like this as well as volunteers reporting this to NDOW or to Jason Jones when he was the Herpetologist. He stated there is an attempt to follow up and maybe it will be on law enforcement side even though they are busy with a lot of requirements to enforce but they are conscientious and will try to remove them on the landscape. He stated there is nothing in place systematic or formal that he is aware of because the resources are just not there.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that although he support the concept of having hunting or fishing license for collecting, that will require NRS change. He stated that anything that requires a fee in the state of Nevada, must go back to the legislature for approval. He stated that we are coming into a legislative session, therefore if NDOW can start to produce ideas, he feels it will not go into effect for another three years unless NDOW could start this process now before we could see a license or fee instituted here, and advised even if the CAB stated their support, it would still require a legislative change.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated he is not an attorney and does not know the legal aspects of it.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that if NDOW would like to push for these changes to be made or the department coming into the next legislative session starting in January 2025, this would require some sort of petition in the system to have a license for this and then it would occur following the legislative session.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to Chair Paul Dixon that when there was a non-commercial group of two to dozen families that would participate in this catch-and-release program, or casual informative collecting but not selling and enjoying being non-commercial collectors.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated that there are about 1 to 2 percent of the population that engage in this type of activity, smaller percentage that are dedicated collectors like he is. He stated he

thinks that is the benefit of a license requirement, that by selling the license, it which would be good data point for the department to know how many people are collecting in Nevada.

- Board member Brian Patterson stated to (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) that he would agree if the license was solely for reptile collecting but as you advised previously in states such as Arizona and California having requirements of only having fishing license or hunting license therefore 100,000 fishing license could be sold but unfortunately that does not tell you how many individuals are purchasing these licenses for the purpose of collecting reptiles and amphibians as opposed for the individuals who are fishing for bass fish.
- Public Comment: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member Brian Patterson that he makes an excellent point.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated it does not help you know how many are engaging in what activity it only helps you know that more funds have been generated. He stated there is no way to know if 20 to 100 to 1,000 people are purchasing the license for collecting activity.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated there are a couple of ways of doing that and gave example that he knows some states at the point of sale will ask the purpose of purchase of the license asking if it is for fishing or collecting reptiles and amphibians or both. He stated the state of Texas has a reptile stamp, this stamp is specifically to show that is their purpose that they are out for and if the individuals get caught by Game Warden, they will see by the stamp that they have a hunting license for the purpose of looking for reptiles, therefore they have more hard data.
- Board member Brian Patterson advised to (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) that what he states shows that it is clearly an enforcement issue and if he were to see (*Lt. Game Warden Christopher Walthers, NDOW Southern Region*) while out and I get pulled over and have three snakes in my back seat and he asked what am I doing with three snakes and asked to show me the fishing license and I am ok because I am allowed to pick up the snakes with my fishing license I purchased.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated that is what he does when he is in Arizona, and California.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that the bottom line is he would like to know how many people are collecting is it, is it 100 people.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised board member Brian Patterson that if it is the percentage of 2% then that means 60,000 people and he feels that amount is unlikely, but if it is .1 % then it would be 3,000 people and even that amount seems kind of high.

- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated he thinks it is closer to the latter.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that he feels it is less than a 1,000 people in the entire state that are actively doing this as a hobby or collecting and keeping it for a week or so.
- Board member John Hiatt advised to board member Brian Patterson that he spends a large portion of his time outside and he never has seen anyone doing this, except for his one friend who has an interest in snakes. He reiterated that he never has seen anyone while out collecting lizards or snakes. He stated he would like to know in California what percentage of the population knows that these regulations exist.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that he feels the same and would like to know the education issue to inform the public of the consequences.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated those are all great points and having a license from Arizona, California, Utah have done for years now there still is an education issue and the problem will not be solved right away, and it must be ongoing education. The advantages are social media, along with North American Herping Association and a California chapter therefore in social media they give information with rules and regulation and about the species. He stated these are modern tools that help with this a little.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that when the little families that are collectors and we put them out of business in 2017 these twenty to twenty-five commercial groups gave the best information and attempted to sit down with NDOW with boxes of files to meeting to show where they caught the species, how many species were caught, and NDOW disregarded this information stating it was not scientific information. He stated these poor individuals had their livelihood taken away from them. He stated in past these same individuals would see species and collect them just by going down the road a little or near their homes, now with thousands of acres of solar panel development throughout the valley, taking over the desert completely. He stated these families were collecting between 15,000 to 20,000 reptiles a year and he feels that amount is insignificant number of reptiles that were being collected each year now NDOW is advising that the population is in decline making a large dent in the reptile population by these individuals collecting and making profits off this. He stated this has not sit well with him since 2017 until now and he still feels the way now. He stated that young kids in the valley who catch three lizards every weekend or two to three a year is more than the professional collectors who were families and why did we get rid of the commercial collectors. He stated the numbers

do not facilitate the concern.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member Brian Patterson that when this regulation was before the Commission for review a few years ago and he asked the question to the Game Wardens to name any of the individuals that they had written tickets too about this issue and they advised that they had a commercial collector that they had written up and for Non-commercial, he stated there is absolutely no enforcement of these regulations even after putting limits on these regardless of how many bag limits you put on these unless someone is upset with another person, that he feels is the only way that anyone will be written up on this action item.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that due to urban development with places such as Clark County Shooting Range when it was being built, as well as desert tortoises. He stated in the process of the build on the Clark County Shooting Range, there were holes throughout and when someone asked what the holes were, they were given the answer of that the holes were that of desert tortoises burrows and when it was summertime during the build the holes were all cut out. He stated he agrees with the statement by board member Brian Patterson stating about the amount of solar panels in place for ten or twelve million acres. He asked the question of the correct number of acres.
- Board member John Hiatt stated twelve million acres.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated this will have the most devastating effect on reptiles than any regulation that we have here in this state.
- Board member John Hiatt asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) if he advised in his presentation that rattlesnakes were killed for their fat and is the term snake oil derived from this.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member John Hiatt yes and did not recall the reference since it was sometime ago, and stated back east largely there was a time that Timber rattlesnakes were harvested in the northeast coast for their fat.
- Board member John Hiatt stated amazing.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked the question to (*Steven Stocking, Herpetologist*) that if the possession limit is not changed or take limits, does he feel that it is a enforcement issue or that we might have to change because it could become a enforcement issue.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he stated he is not qualified to address this specifically and should be left to the Game Warden. He stated the example he gave early on Gopher snake by raising the population from two to four would not have he feels pose any risk to the population of Gopher snakes.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): if there will be

individuals who will be caught with four Gopher snakes.

- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated yes.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): that the example he gave was a pregnant Gopher snake.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that is like having desert tortoises in one's backyard laying eggs and having babies. He stated there are more desert tortoises in captivity in Clark County and unfortunately, many of them that are released and sent back to the wild are either flipped over, baked in the sun or eaten by the ravens.
- Chair Paul Dixon reiterated his question to (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) what would stop an individual who has a two Gopher rattlesnake and is pregnant and lays ten eggs and they hatch, and they take those ten and place them back into the environment. He stated we are not to return these eggs to the environment after we collect them.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He advised that is correct, they are not supposed to do so. He stated the current regulations as written prohibit that to happen, therefore they should be either gifted or speaking to the department to find solution for the issue. He stated the department sometimes takes them and gifts them to an educational institution. He advised that the previous Herpetologist, Jason Jones had done this on occasion.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked as part of his action report which he submits to the Commission, he would like to include the recommendation from (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) of which species he would like to include for increase. He stated he does not have enough information to give a recommendation that is based on the public to advise of recommended harvest limits. He stated he has never seen anyone caught or fined for this during his entire capacity as a Chair of the CAB, he stated that is 16 years.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated he does not think he has seen that happen either.
- Board member John Hiatt advised to Chair Paul Dixon that there is a need to get a whole lot more information on how many individuals is collecting.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that it shows by lack of information that nothing has changed.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that one cannot say that the population is declining without data and unfortunately, they made those individuals get rid of their data and would not accept their data.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated there needs to have limits and quotas as we do, but by doing so the Game Warden has teeth in the game to be able to write the citation.

- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to Chair Paul Dixon that he will forward him the spreadsheet that he has made to show these results to the department so that the CAB will have this information as well. He stated after you and the CAB review this spreadsheet, if you have any additional questions, he advised he will be happy to answer them. He stated the report is very detailed going from species to species therefore you may also forward the spreadsheet to the other members and anyone you would like to view.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He advised he wanted to thank the CAB for letting him speak.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he appreciates (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) input and taking the time to attend our meeting and he looks forward to viewing the spreadsheet.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated he would like to ask (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) one last question on this issue, he stated he agrees with Chair Paul Dixon that if a license requirement was to be instituted requiring a fee, it would require an act from the legislature. He stated what if there was license requirement with no fee instead and requires individuals to read the regulations or take a webinar course hence this might be faster interim solution to a) gather information with the ability to find out how many people are collecting, have an interest in this and the amount of take. He stated by doing so later down the line if this seems like the data advises enough individuals to charge a fee then we may be able to take that action. He stated as an interim, he suggests fee permit with requirement like shed antler.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated like shed hunting in place right now in which the hunter must take a shed antler course and stated this could be the same for non-commercial reptile hunting, with a certificate and stated to board member Jacob Thompson that it would indeed require legislation. He stated if we get to this exactly where (*Steven Stockings, Herpetologist*) wanted to take this as well with having education behind it. He stated if enough people take this course and it seems warranted then the decision of making it a charge for it, then you may put this before the legislature. He stated this is giving board member Jacob Thompson and (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) time to decide if this would be the direction you would like to go with this or not.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated that the rules in Utah, they do charge a fee just like other states with education requirement, with the unprotected list and lowest priority invictus limited list with reduce bag limits to some of their sensitive species. He stated the education

component of getting license and having education on the take rules with the sensidous species with the bag limit rule applying with the Game Warden having to collect their findings to the department. He stated he felt that the state of Utah has giving this some serious thought on this, and it is reflected by the process.

- Board member Alexander Harper stated to (*Steven Stocking, Herpetologist*) that he would like to state a few things at this time and advised to everyone that he had spoken with (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*) a few days ago, about this issue after talking with (*Jason Jones previous NDOW Herpetologist*). He stated Jason Jones now is a consulting of a Western Biology company in which he worked there for a few years. He stated (*Jason Jones, previous Herpetologist, NDOW*) gave him insight on the amount of knowledge known on reptiles in Nevada, and stated it is black hole. He stated black hole meaning knowledge of knowing each species populations. He stated these other states do have license requirements and he is in agreeance that the amount of knowledge by the state on the amount of collecting of reptiles is statistically enough to decrease snake, reptile, or amphibian populations. He stated from moving from Florida to Nevada, where there is a need for a license to collect species for non-commercial purposes. He stated from Florida, Texas, certain portions of California, where certain reptiles are being heavily targeted for non-commecial collections to the point of becoming possibly problematic for habitat & conservation groups, especially in areas with certain species. He advised there were no snake on the list seem to be targeted but there seems to be lizards that are a lot. He stated when speaking to (*Jason Jones, previous Herpetologist, NDOW*) discussing the impact of the commercial collecting that is going on in the Amargosa Valley, Nevada, when there was a genetic study done on these species, finding there was large decrease in the genetic availability in the population but unfortunately, we have no comparision. He stated not enough know regarding reptile populations in adjacent states. He stated only comparing to what we have in similar habitats in Mohave Desert. He stated organizations such as Citizen scientist iNaturalist application, these sightings of these reptiles need to be hidden when showing the findings so that people do not know the location of these reptiles due to having a target on them as a species. He reiterated he felt this is not an issue in the state of Nevada but again we do not have enough information.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that the same issue was with Chuckwallas, in which there was a claim that commercial collecting was leading to this species demise.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He advised he needs some education on this issue and asked if stores are amphibian stores

with unprotected reptiles and amphibian therefore, he wonders if the store is under Department of Agriculture or NDOW or how is it categorized.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated to (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*) that NDOW does have a say in what species can be sold in stores and any species it deems to be invasive species that are not allowed in the state of Nevada such as the red claw crayfish and others in past. He gave an example of the stores in the mall where people could place their feet into the water and the fish would eat the dry skin and rough patches off their feet leaving them smooth and soft. He reiterated that NDOW along with the Department of Agriculture can determine which species they do not want because they are invasive, exotic species that are being traded that is Department of Agriculture.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated the expo for extoic animals that they held at the casino, with collectors coming from states and other countries buying and selling.
- Public Comments: (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*): He asked the question again of who has jurisidiction NDOW or Department of Agriculture and how do we know which one has the jurisdiction.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to (*Bob Bobbett, member of the public*) that again that this does not apply to commercial, the state got rid of commercial collecting a time ago, and this applies to commerical selling only if it is a species that is invasive and may cause issues to date with populations, outside of that applies to Department of Argiculture.
- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*): He stated if he would like to catch a rattlesnake to eat, does that require a tag or anything.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated the answer is No. He stated many of them are protected and are on the (SGCN) Species of Greatest Conservation Need list, with bag limits and one may collect within the bag limit alive or dead. He stated the one species that is not on that list is the Western Diamondback rattlesnake. This species has a bag limit of zero, even though it is not listed on the Wildlife Action Plan as a sensitive species.
- Public Comments: (*Mark Transue, member of the public*): He stated he has been catching snakes for years and eating them. He advised it has not been large number due to not seeing many snakes. He stated if he sees snake he will simply go grab it.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to (*Steve Herpetologist*) that he wanted to know where it stated that Arizona bag limit of twenty a day, therefore what would a individual do with twenty a day of lizards other than sell the lizards.
- Public Comments: (*Steve Stocking, Herpetologist*): He stated to board member John Hiatt was he looking at the Arizona bag limit for common

lizards. He stated some collectors or hobbyist or snake keepers that may have small percentage for the purpose of feeding their snakes who are lizard feeders.

- Board member John Hiatt advised in the end they are no different than commercial collectors, referring to the individuals who (Steve Stocking, Herpetologist) spoke about, he felt the lizards are just being trashed.
- Board member Brian Patterson advised a motion to accept Commission Regulation 24-15 2025 & 2026 Seasons & Limits for Noncommercial Collection of Live, Unprotected Reptiles & Amphibians as presented.
- Chair Paul Dixon seconds the motion.
- Board member John Hiatt asked to add a friendly amendment to the motion with a provision that the department make a sincere effort to collect more information on how many of these species are being collected, how many people are engaging in this activity.
- Board member Alexander Harper asked to add a friendly amendment to the motion as well stating especially for any reptiles that are on the Wildlife Management Plan. He stated that if these species are on this list, then there would be data collected already on these species.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

f. **Commission General Regulations 522-e-Tag Regulations (*For possible action*)** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to amend Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 502 that would update the process related to use of game tags in the field and allow the Department to offer game tags in an electronic format.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that this action item is coming again before the CAB for adoption and the last time the CAB had discussion on this action item, there were a lot of concerns about non-connectivity in certain areas, how this process would work. He advised even if a hunter does not have cell service, once hunter has harvested an animal, they must validate their permit by sending in their information to NDOW,
- FYI- SEC. 7 NAC 502.390 is hereby amended to read as follows: Except as otherwise provided in NAC 502.42905, when a person reaches any wildlife which the person has killed, he or she must validate his or her tag or permit immediately by: (2) If the tag or permit is an electronic tag or permit, submitting the requested information through the Department's designated electronic system and receiving a validation code upon such submission. A customer will have the option to opt in or out of sharing

their location with the Department.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated that Nevada has a large amount of its areas that do not have good cell phone service, he gave a suggestion that if ever one is in a non-connectivity area, they should find the top of any mountain range, he guarantees that they will receive service, he stated he has had to do this on multiple occasions while out hunting. He stated you probably will not have it most times on the bottom portion of the mountain range, but he reiterated, that he found he always had success in finding connectivity on the top of the mountain range.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated he was on top of Becky Peak, and Success Loop as well did not get service.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to board member Brian Patterson that he should have had service on Becky Peak Mountain.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he did receive service on the top mountain range of both Becky Peak and Mt. Raptor.
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*): He asked board member Brian Patterson who was his cell phone provider.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated that his provider is Verizon, and he had AT&T service.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that the cell phone service will determine if you have service. He stated once Starlink gets enough satellites up then connectivity will not be an issue. He stated that the CAB has already discussed this action item, and he sees nothing additional to discuss on this item going forward.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised a motion to accept Commission General Regulation 522, Electronic Tags (E-tags) as written.
- Board member Brian Patterson seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

g. Commission General Regulation 523- Heritage Revisions (*For possible action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Commission General Regulations 523- Heritage Revisions with adoption to amend Chapter 501 Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), this regulation would change Heritage Project Awards from one to two years with the possibility for extension.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised this is reflecting how this regulation is changing Project Awards from 1 to 2 years with possible extensions. He stated that the CAB passed this as presented at its last meeting on 9/24/2025. He stated

he is giving the CAB another opportunity to give any additional thoughts on this action item.

- Board member John Hiatt stated to Chair Paul Dixon that they could simply state to please see the CABs freeze recommendation.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt he will say as presented. He stated it is up for adoption and at the last meeting that the CAB accepted as presented, this action item was under workshop last time.
- Public Comments: (None)
- Chair Paul Dixon advised a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 523-Heritage Revisions as presented.
- Board member John Hiatt seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

VIII. Comments by the general public- A period devoted to comments by the members of the public about matter relevant to the CCABMW's jurisdiction will be held. No vote may be taken on this matter not listed on the posted agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If any member of the CCABMW wishes to extend the length of the presentation, this will be done by the Chair or the CCABMW by majority vote.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated with First Come, First Serve, he stated a tag would appear and within seconds he would try to click on it and this tag would already have been taken. He stated this has happened to him multiple times to the extent that he stated it does not seem real. He wanted to know if there is a logical explanation on why this continues to happen and asked the question of if there is that many tags
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*): He stated to board member Brian Patterson that there are that many people on this site and advised if board member Brian Patterson would think of the number of people you think are on this site already and triple that total along with everyone on this site random refresh rate of 35 second intervals and the probability of you and this other person refreshing at the same time. He stated this happens to him as well when he attempts to apply and stated it happens to everyone else as well.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated a couple of nights

ago he was watching for a tag and it U-tagged with number 68 popping up and he attempted to click onto it and stated there is no way that anyone else was faster than he was, and it was gone. He stated he was very upset.

- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*): He stated to board member Brian Patterson that it could have been on the board for over 30 seconds prior to him seeing it therefore giving someone else the opportunity to retrieve it.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated he continued to look and wait and around 11 PM there was a deer tag that appeared, and he was able to retrieve it successfully, he stated it was one of 11 tags available.
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW Southern Region*): He asked board member Brian Patterson that the process is randomized, and there are lots of people playing and it is good luck.
- Board member John Hiatt asked (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*) is it possible that individuals have written programs that search that website continuously even though they are not even on the site at the time (giving example to tickets for concerts, events) and they have this written program that will instantaneously this website until they retrieve their tickets).
- Brian Patterson stated to board member John Hiatt that is not possible with this website because it is asking the individual to check out in the time span of five minutes. He reiterated that the individual can only hold the item for a period of five minutes.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that people can have programs as that board member John Hiatt spoke about that will stay on a program until they retrieve the opportunity to accept the permit, but the way that NDOW deterred the program people like that is by having a time period of five minutes to click to accept the permit listed and purchase and pay and if not it will return back for other people to accept it, but if you have a program like that it will have to call you and inform you so that you can log in and get on the program timely within that five minutes or accept that permit. He stated that five minutes has been the greatest deterrence against these individuals with programs like this.

- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*): He stated that as many people who pay and accept these tags leads him not to believe that these people are using that system that Chair Paul Dixon was stating.
- Board member Brian Patterson advised that you receive a tag you are locked out for several days. He stated he believes that the system is good and agrees with (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor NDOW Southern Region*) that the system is totally random with the permits.
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised this item is hereby closed.**

IX. Authorize Chair Paul Dixon to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Wildlife Commission for its consideration at its November 15, 2024 & November 16, 2024, meeting in Reno, NV (*For possible action*).

- **Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.**
- Chair Paul Dixon advised a motion for himself, to prepare and submit all recommendations from tonight's meeting and submit them to Commission for its meeting on November 15, 2024 & November 16, 2024.
- Board member John Hiatt seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0.**

X. The next CCABMW Board meeting will be scheduled for January 21, 2025, @ Clark County Government Center (*Pueblo Room*) 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas. The meeting will be in support of the Commission meeting on January 24, 2025 & January 25, 2025, meeting in Reno, NV.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he like to thank board member Brian Patterson for his service on the board and will look forward to seeing him at our next meetings in 2025 as a member of the public.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked Secretary Darlene Kretunski when she will post the position and when is the deadline date for the vacancies for the CCABMW positions.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski advised that she has already posted the position on the DES website as well as with Clark County website and each Commissioner has received this announcement as well, and that the deadline is November 19, 2024.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised for everyone in tonight's meeting if they would like too or knows of anyone who would be interested in these

positions, please let them know. He advised he has talked to many times of the Commissioners regarding different individuals who wanted to be part of the CAB.

- Board member Alexander Harper asked how many positions are available.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated there are two positions available.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski stated to board member Brian Patterson that she wondered why he did not return his application yet for his re-appointment and she knows now that he has decided not to ask for re-appointment.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated to Secretary Darlene Kretunski so if I change my mind then I have up until the deadline date of November 19, 2024.
- Chair Paul Dixon jokingly stated to board member Brian Patterson that is correct unless you are not on the top of the mountain range and in an area that has no connectivity, and you have your awful phone carrier Verizon and AT&T.
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that the meeting is hereby closed.**

XI. Adjournment.

(POSTING)

The agenda for this meeting was legally noticed and posted at the following locations:

- Nevada Department of Wildlife: 3373 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89120
- Clark County Government Center: 500 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV89108
- City of Henderson: Henderson City Clerk: 240 S. Water Street, Henderson, NV89015
- Laughlin Regional Government Center: 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, NV89028
- Moapa Valley Community Center: 320 North Moapa Valley Road, Overton, NV89040
- Mesquite City Hall: 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Boulder City: Boulder City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder City, NV89005
- ONLINE: https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/environment_and_sustainable/advisory_board_to_manage_wildlife.php